



IDANET BRIEF

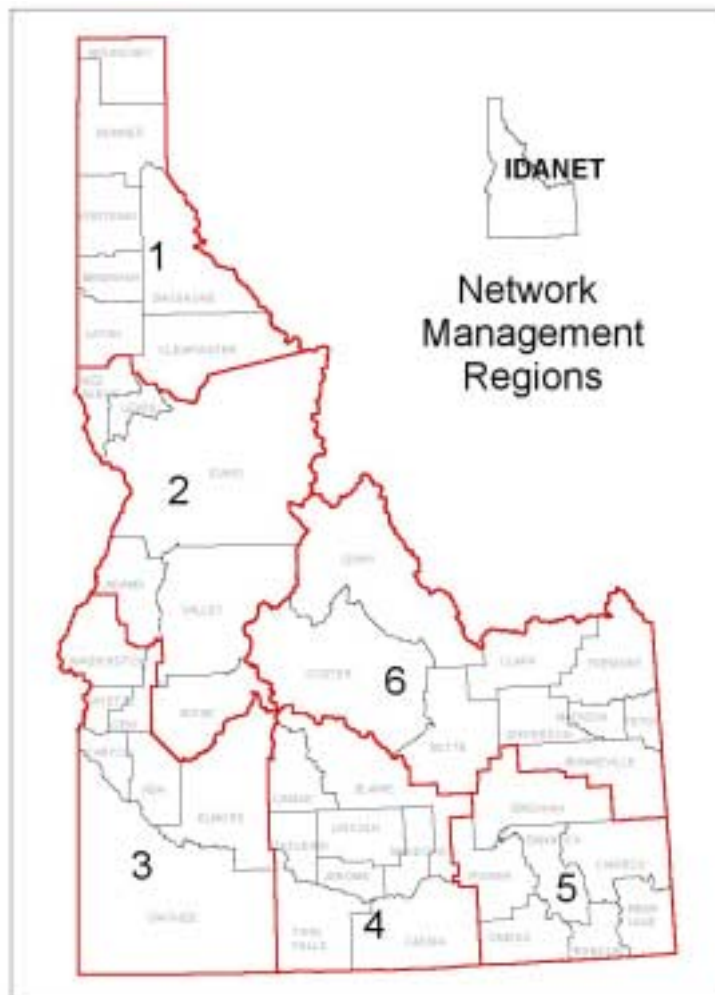
Connecting Idaho Today and Tomorrow

January 28, 2002

PURPOSE, STRATEGY, BENEFITS, PROGRESS & USES

PURPOSE: IDANET, Idaho's broadband digital telecommunications initiative, is the State's attempt to leverage its buying power. By aggregating existing dollars spent by State agencies and Higher Education -- and serving as anchor tenant -- the State hopes to encourage telecommunications carriers to deploy broadband telecommunications services in Idaho to not only serve State government but also serve the public at large.

BIDDING STRATEGY: The State's bidding strategy is to bid and acquire services by Region. For the purposes of IDANET, the State is divided into six regions. They are outlined in the graphic below. The State believes a regional approach will foster more competition.



BENEFITS: A major focus of the IDANET project is to enhance rural economic development in support of Governor Dirk Kempthorne's Rural Idaho Initiative and to encourage the development of an infrastructure to help minimize the effect of the digital divide in Idaho. In many of Idaho's rural areas and communities, present technology restricts citizens and businesses from receiving the benefits of fast and reliable Internet access enjoyed by Idahoans in the state's larger cities. Other benefits IDANET could provide would include enhanced distance learning providing equity of educational opportunities for all communities; enhanced public services including a realization of e-commerce while providing real time information throughout Idaho regardless of location; and improved operating effectiveness and cost efficiencies by better intra-agency and inter-agency communications and effective growth management ("bandwidth on demand").

PROGRESS (DATES ARE APPROXIMATE):

- IT technical staff of State agencies and Higher Education inventory the State's existing networking infrastructure and design a digital network that will allow State Agencies to achieve connectivity in each of Idaho's 44 counties (February/March, 2001).
- IT representatives of State agencies and Higher Education complete a foundational concept document that describes network implementation and management (April, 2001).
- Mission critical applications for the Idaho State Lottery and videoconferencing for Higher Education are tested for proof of concept (May/June, 2001).
- A special briefing was conducted for Governor Kempthorne and Lt. Governor Jack Riggs and their staffs (June 11, 2001).
- The first invitation to bid (ITB) to provide high-speed broadband services to Region One was issued (June 15, 2001) and was followed by a bidders conference held (June 29, 2001). The Region One ITB calls for enhanced digital capabilities connecting counties in the northern Panhandle.
- The second ITB for the Backbone was released to provide enhanced digital services to connect the major Regions in Idaho (June 25, 2001).
- ATM (Asynchronous Transfer Mode) digital training held (July 30, 2001) for technical staff of State agencies and institutions of higher education.
- Key ATM networking equipment tested to ensure it meets the State's needs for high reliability (July/August, 2001).
- A 14-member Oversight Committee identified and convened first meeting (August/September, 2001). The Committee will oversee implementation and management of the new network.
- A 5-year Master Lease Agreement established to acquire networking equipment for IDANET (September/October, 2001).
- Bid responses evaluated by State evaluation committee for Region One ITB and enhanced digital services ITB (October, 2001). Contract awards pending.
- Bid documents for Regions 2 (central Idaho) and 6 (eastern Idaho) issued (November, 2001).
- Awarded the Backbone bid (December, 2001).
- Bid document for ATM networking equipment issued (December, 2001).
- Bidders' Conferences for Region 2 (Lewiston) and Region 6 (Idaho Falls) held (January, 2002).

TYPICAL USES (PARTIAL LISTING):

Idaho Schools and Institutions:

- Internet access for all public schools,
- Higher Education Internet 2,
- Video-conferencing, distance learning,
- Interaction with parents and faculty,
- Linking computers to access a variety of educational materials and classes,
- Teacher training (home schooling, research)
- Registering for classes on-line.

E-Commerce:

- Reservations, payment for state park facilities,
- Ordering and payment for state publications, birth, marriage and other public documents/certificates, UCC filings,
- Renewal of licenses (the state issues 600 to 800 types of licenses and permits),
- Payment of taxes, fees, and fines,
- Ordering services from state agencies,
- Access to the Idaho Code and Administrative Rules.

Judicial proceedings:

- Probation hearings.

Tele-Medicine:

- Linking rural clinics to hospitals, specialists,
- Remote monitoring and tele-radiology reports,
- Diagnostic sessions, electronic house calls.

Shared GIS (Geographic Information System) utilization:

- Administration of water rights, water conservation,
- Property tax assessment, distribution of state and local revenues,
- Land use planning, range management.

Internet Video-Audio Streaming:

- Legislative sessions,
- Government hearings,
- Key government leadership addresses to general public,
- Interactive town hall meetings.

RELATED ITEMS: The IDANET initiative is complemented by Idaho's broadband investment tax credit approved by the State Legislature last session. This tax credit is issued to those telecommunications carriers who deploy eligible broadband equipment in Idaho. The IPUC determines eligibility.

*For more information, contact: **Joe Roche**, Idaho Department of Administration, (208)332-1841, jroche@adm.state.id.us*